## CLAIMS

1. A phase error correction circuit comprising:

a complex phase rotator for multiplying an input VSB (vestigial-sideband) signal by a phase correction signal and outputting a resultant signal;

a specific frequency component elimination filter for eliminating a specific frequency component from the signal output from the complex phase rotator and outputting a resultant signal;

a waveform equalizer for performing waveform distortion correction to the signal output from the specific frequency component elimination filter and outputting a resultant signal; and

a phase correction signal generator for detecting a phase error based on the signal output from the waveform equalizer and outputting a complex signal corresponding to the detected phase error as the phase correction signal.

- 2. The phase error correction circuit of claim 1, wherein the waveform equalizer receives a complex signal from the specific frequency component elimination filter and outputs a real signal as the resultant signal obtained from the waveform distortion correction.
- 3. The phase error correction circuit of claim 2, wherein the phase correction signal generator includes a Hilbert transformer for performing Hilbert transform to the signal output from the waveform equalizer and outputting a complex signal obtained from the Hilbert transform and detects the phase error based on the Hilbert-transformed complex signal.

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4. The phase error correction circuit of claim 3, wherein the phase correction signal generator further includes:

a phase error detector for detecting the phase error based on the Hilbert-transformed complex signal and outputting the detected phase error;

a low pass filter for smoothing the detected phase error output from the phase error detector and outputting the smoothed signal; and

a complex signal generator for generating a complex signal corresponding to the signal output from the low pass filter and outputting the generated complex signal as the phase correction signal.

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5. The phase error correction circuit of claim 4, wherein the phase error detector includes:

a slicer for estimating an original signal symbol value of the VSB signal from an in-phase component of an input complex signal;

a subtracter for obtaining a difference between an in-phase component of the Hilbert-transformed complex signal and the estimated signal symbol value output from the slicer; and

an integrator for obtaining a product of the difference output from the subtracter and a quadrature component of the Hilbert-transformed complex signal and outputting a resultant product as the phase error.

6. The phase error correction circuit of claim 3, further comprising a small phase error corrector for detecting a phase error based on the Hilbert-transformed complex signal, performing correction of the phase error of the Hilbert-transformed complex signal according to the detected phase error, and outputting a phase-corrected signal.

- 7. The phase error correction circuit of claim 6, wherein the small phase error corrector includes:
- a small complex phase rotator for multiplying the Hilbert-transformed complex signal by a small phase error correction signal and outputting a resultant signal;
  - a phase error detector for detecting the phase error based on the signal output from the small complex phase rotator and outputting the detected phase error;
  - a low pass filter for smoothing the detected phase error output from the phase error detector and outputting the smoothed signal; and
  - a complex signal generator for generating a complex signal corresponding to the signal output from the low pass filter and outputting the generated complex signal as the small phase error correction signal.

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- 8. The phase error correction circuit of claim 1, wherein the specific frequency component elimination filter has a narrow band elimination filter for eliminating a specific frequency component.
  - 9. The phase error correction circuit of claim 8, wherein the narrow band elimination filter eliminates a component of a carrier frequency in a NTSC (national television system committee) signal.
  - 10. The phase error correction circuit of claim 8, wherein the narrow band elimination filter eliminates a direct current component.
    - 11. The phase error correction circuit of claim 1, wherein the specific frequency

component elimination filter has a narrow band elimination filter of which an elimination frequency band is variable.